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A New Chapter in the History  
of our Country's Steel Smelting

The New Observer, Vol I, No 10,  
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10 Nov 1950

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## A NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY'S STEEL SMELTING

As a result of the study of advanced Soviet methods by workers and employees and their rising enthusiasm in work, the No 2 open-hearth furnace in a Chungking steel plant has written a glorious page in the history of China's steel production. The plant produced 3,109.838 tons of steel in its 17th production schedule, covering a period of 99 days from 26 June to 2 October 1950, with 283 operations.

Costs were greatly reduced as a result of the lengthened smelting time of the No 2 furnace. For instance, coal consumption dropped to 0.3392 ton per ton of steel from the previous figure of 0.4567. Repair entailed fire-proof material valued at only 152,200 yuan in comparison with previous expenditures of 450,000 yuan. Moreover, the quality of steel became as good as SAE standards would require. For these advances, we should thank the Soviet hero, Mikhaylov, who taught us a better method.

At the end of June 1950, when the No 2 open-hearth furnace started operations, all workers and employees of the plant organized to study the article "Soviet Russian Steel Expert Mkihaylov," published in the Chungking Hsin-hua Jih-pao.

In the earlier period after the liberation, the workers welcomed the 2 May contest. But the three steel-processing shifts operated the furnace at such high temperatures that the furnace was damaged. Consequently, the production goals for May and June were not met. Such a failure was in sharp contrast to Mikhaylov's instructions.

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Several group meetings were held in which the three supervisors initiated self-criticism and discussion sessions. A better shift regulation was introduced and the assignment of duty was also improved. Consequently, the charging time was reduced from 2 hours 20 minutes to one hour 20 minutes, and the rate of operation was increased from two furnace charges daily to seven furnace charges in 2 days, sometimes reaching as high as four furnace charges a day.

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